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<b>TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A SUBMISSION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371</b>		<b>ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER</b> <b>5003073.059US1</b>
<b>INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.</b> <b>PCT/EP2003/007425</b>		<b>U.S. APPLICATION NO. if known, see 37 CFR 1.5</b> <b>10/520697</b>
<b>TITLE OF INVENTION</b> <b>WATER-ABSORBENT, FOAM-TYPE POLYMER STRUCTURE</b>		<b>PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED</b> <b>11 July 2002</b>
<b>APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US</b> <b>HINTZ, Sandra et al.</b>		
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:		
<p>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>FIRST</b> submission of items concerning a submission under 35 U.S.C. 371.</p> <p>2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> submission of items concerning a submission under 35 U.S.C. 371.</p> <p>3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below.</p> <p>4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected (Article 31).</p> <p>5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).</li> <li>b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau.</li> <li>c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).</li> </ul> </p> <p>6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto.</li> <li>b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</li> </ul> </p> <p>7. <input type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).</li> <li>b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau.</li> <li>c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.</li> <li>d. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made.</li> </ul> </p> <p>8. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).</p> <p>9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).</p> <p>10. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).</p>		
Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:		
<p>11. <input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.</p> <p>12. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.</p> <p>13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A preliminary amendment.</p> <p>14. <input type="checkbox"/> An Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76.</p> <p>15. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification.</p> <p>16. <input type="checkbox"/> A power of attorney and/or change of address letter.</p> <p>17. <input type="checkbox"/> A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 37 CFR 1.821- 1.825.</p> <p>18. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the published International Application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</p> <p>19. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</p> <p>20. <input type="checkbox"/> Other items or information:</p>		

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.414 and 1.491-1.492. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public, which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 15 minutes to complete, including gathering information, preparing, and submitting the completed form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5) <b>10/520697</b>		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/EP2003/007425		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 5003073.059US1																			
<p>21. The following fees are submitted:</p> <table> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a) Basic national fee.....</td> <td>\$300.00</td> <td>Applicant use</td> <td>Office use only</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> b) Examination fee.....</td> <td>\$200.00</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> c) Search fee.....</td> <td>\$500.00</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS = \$1000.00</b></td> <td colspan="2">\$1,000.00</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Additional fee for specification and drawings filed in paper over 100 sheets (excluding sequence listing or computer program listing filed in an electronic medium). The fee is \$250 for each additional 50 sheets of paper or fraction thereof.</p>						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a) Basic national fee.....	\$300.00	Applicant use	Office use only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> b) Examination fee.....	\$200.00			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> c) Search fee.....	\$500.00			<b>TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS = \$1000.00</b>		\$1,000.00			
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> c) Search fee.....	\$500.00																						
<b>TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS = \$1000.00</b>		\$1,000.00																					
Total Sheets	Extra sheets	Number of each additional 50 or fraction thereof (round up to a whole number)	RATE																				
41 - 100 = 0 /50 =			x \$250.00	\$ ---																			
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).																							
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	\$																			
Total claims	16 - 20 = 0		x \$50.00	\$ ---																			
Independent claims	2 - 3 = 0		x \$200.00	\$ ---																			
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+ \$360.00	\$ ---																			
<b>TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =</b>				\$																			
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by ½.																							
<b>SUBTOTAL =</b>																							
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).																							
<b>TOTAL NATIONAL FEE = \$ 1,000.00</b>																							
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property																							
<b>TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED = \$ 1,000.00</b>																							
<table> <tr> <td>Amount to be refunded:</td> <td rowspan="2" style="background-color: #e0e0e0;">\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Amount to be charged</td> </tr> </table>						Amount to be refunded:	\$	Amount to be charged															
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<p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ <u>1,000.00</u> to cover the above fees is enclosed.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.</p> <p>c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <u>502190</u>. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.</p> <p>d. <input type="checkbox"/> Fees are to be charged to a credit card. <b>WARNING:</b> Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.</p>																							
NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the International Application to pending status.																							
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:																							
SMITH-MOORE LLP (Customer No. 29737)																							
P.O. Box 21927																							
Greensboro, NC 27420																							
US																							
 SIGNATURE <u>Philip P. McCann</u> NAME <u>30,919</u> REGISTRATION NUMBER																							

10/520697

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Sir:

**CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAIL**

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Date of Deposit: January 7, 2005

I hereby certify that this paper, which is a utility patent application filed under 35 U.S.C. 371 entitled WATER-ABSORBENT, FOAM-TYPE POLYMER STRUCTURE (our File No. 5003073-059US1), and the attached fee are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above, and is addressed to the Mail Stop PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Mailed By: Lorna D. Selvaggio  
Lorna D. Selvaggio